

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

NED MINGUS, No. 092133

No. 05-73842

Plaintiff,

District Judge Marianne O. Battani

v.

Magistrate Judge R. Steven Whalen

SHERILYN BUTLER,

Defendant.

/

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO APPOINT COUNSEL

Plaintiff, a *pro se* prison inmate in this civil rights action brought under 42 U.S.C. §1983, has filed a motion for appointment of counsel [Docket #32].

Unlike criminal cases, there is no constitutional or statutory right to the appointment of counsel in civil cases. Rather, the Court requests members of the bar to assist in appropriate cases. In *Lavado v. Keohane*, 992 F.2d 601, 605-606 (6th Cir. 1993), the Sixth Circuit noted that “[a]ppointment of counsel in a civil case is not a constitutional right. It is a privilege that is justified only by exceptional circumstances.” (Internal quotations and citations omitted).

It is the practice of this Court to defer any attempt to obtain counsel for *pro se* civil rights Plaintiffs until after motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment have been denied. The dispositive motion cut-off date in this case is February 7, 2008 (see Scheduling Order, Docket #31). At this point, Plaintiff’s motion to appoint counsel is premature. If

Plaintiff's claims ultimately survive dispositive motions, he may renew his motion for appointment of counsel at that time.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion for appointment of counsel [Docket #32] is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE**.

S/R. Steven Whalen
R. STEVEN WHALEN
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Dated: November 16, 2007

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that a copy of the foregoing order was served on the attorneys and/or parties of record by electronic means or U.S. Mail on November 16, 2007.

S/G. Wilson
Judicial Assistant